

Chilton County CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P. O. Box 66 • 500 Fifth Avenue North

CLANTON, ALABAMA 35046

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FCC
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.
20554

June 15th, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this public comment on FCC proceeding 11-65 regarding AT&T's application to join with T-Mobile. As the Executive Director of the Chilton County Chamber of Commerce, I represent and speak for our community's business sector. In town, Clanton has a strong commercial sector, but our community exists within a larger rural community.

I bring that to your attention because it is somewhat analogous to the state of wireless communication in our nation. America has those areas with strong wireless connections, and those that don't. The disparity, which often coincides with urban versus rural areas, creates a sense of haves and have-nots. We know the benefit high speed wireless broadband can have on economic and community development and we are eager for those benefits to come to rural areas like ours.

We are encouraged by the possibility that AT&T will merge with T-Mobile because we are confident AT&T will use its combined strength to help achieve President Obama's goal of bringing wireless broadband access to 98% of the country. High speed broadband is one of the most important economic tools available to business and economic development leaders. It levels the playing field and provides new opportunities for efficiency and productivity. And, it also provides a better quality of life for families and the elderly by improving connectivity and access to information.

We hope you will give your consent to this merger and let new economic development and greater connectivity become a reality.

Sincerely,



Mike Robertson
Executive Director,
Chilton County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn